

REMARKS

Applicants will address each of the Examiner's rejections in the order in which they appear in the Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

Claims 30-33 and 40-43

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 30-33 and 40-43 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohno et al. (US 4,975,168) in view of Tu et al. (US 5,714,285) and Yamanishi et al. (US 5,626,727). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

While Applicants traverse this rejection, in order to advance the prosecution of this application, Applicants are amending independent Claim 30 to include the features of dependent Claims 33 and 37 (which have now been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer). In the Office Action, the Examiner states that the prior art does not teach the combination of claims 30 and 33 with the subject matter of claim 37, and therefore, this is allowable subject matter. Hence, amended Claim 30 is directed to allowable subject matter.

Therefore, amended independent Claim 30 is not disclosed or suggested by the cited references, and Claim 30 and those claims dependent thereon are patentable over the cited references.

In addition, in order to advance the prosecution of this application, Claims 40-43 are being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 34-36

The Examiner also rejects Claims 34-36 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohno in view of Tu and Yamanishi and further in view of Satoshi (JP 10-303172). This rejection is also respectfully traversed.

Each of these claims is a dependent claim. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above for the independent claims, each of these claims is also patentable over the cited references. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and should be allowed.

If any fee should be due for this amendment, or for an extension of time, please charge our deposit account 50/1039.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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